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Foreword

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## ***Foreword***

*This volume contains papers presenting some results lectured at the 31th Winter School on Abstract Analysis 2003.*

*Traditionally, the conference consisted from two parts. The part devoted to analysis was held from January 11 to January 18 in Lhota nad Rohanovem and the part devoted to topology was held from January 25 to February 1 in Litice u České Lípy.*

*In both parts, several invited lectures, or series of lectures, were organized. In the analysis part, five series of invited lectures were given.*

*The series delivered by Professor Yoav Benyamin from Technion Haifa had title “Uniform classification of Banach spaces”. Professor Robert Deville from University of Bordeaux lectured on ranges of gradients of functions defined on Banach spaces. Professor Robert Kaufman from Indiana University gave three talks on some results of descriptive set theory. Eva Matoušková from Czech Academy of sciences talked on “Almost isometries”. Professor Anibal Maltó from University of Valencia gave a series of talks on “Non-linear transfer technique”.*

*The carrying themes of the topology week were modern methods of set theory, mainly general theory of forcing axioms. These topics were presented in two series of invited lectures, each consisting of four hours. Professor Joan Bagaria gave a series “Generic Absoluteness” and Professor Janusz Pawlikowski entitled his series “Covering Property Axiom and its consequences”.*

*Big excitement raised on Thursday evening, when we learned that the castle in Zahrádky, the former location of Winter schools, is burning. Two days before we tried to arrange the next year of the school there. On the way back we made a short stop at the ruins of the castle.*

*As usual, we organized traditional problem sessions, where a number of problems were presented. We thank all the participants for their contribution that made 31th Winter School a very successful and pleasant event.*

*To speed the publication of the proceedings, the full responsibility for the linguistic form of the papers was left to the authors.*

*We appreciate very much the work done by our colleagues and also many foreign participants for helping the organizing committee. We are obliged to the managing editor Petr Simon for preparing this volume of the journal devoted to the Winter School.*

*Bohuslav Balcar, Ondřej Kalenda and Miroslav Zelený*